

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application as amended is requested. By this amendment Applicants have amended claims 1, 2 and 4-7 for clarity. Claims 1-7 remain in the case.

The Examiner has rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) claims 1 and 4 as being anticipated by Rodriquez and claims 1 and 2 as being anticipated by Noda et al ("Noda"); and has rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) claims 2, 5 and 6 as being unpatentable over Rodriquez in view of Noda et al and Ryan et al ("Ryan") and claim 3 as being unpatentable over Rodriquez in view of Russo. The Examiner objected to claims 7 and 6/7 as depending upon a rejected base claim.

Rodriquez is a digital computer chassis, rather than a modular rack-mounting system as recited by Applicants, which uses a strut 15 between front and rear walls 17, 18 to provide structural rigidity as well as a conductor conduit 16 and point of attachment for a power supply 22 and a hard disk drive 21. The computer chassis is not designed for mounting on an instrument rack, but rather to be a self-contained unit. Also the structure of front and rear walls on a chassis (bottom) with a strut between them do not form a compartment.

The Examiner states that Rodriquez teaches a rack-mounting system. However in fact Rodriquez discloses a self-contained digital computer chassis that is not suitable for rack mounting. Applicants, for clarity, have amended claim 1 to recite that the frame is "suitable for mounting on an instrument rack." Further the Examiner indicates that Rodriquez discloses a frame forming a central compartment, referring to the entire inside of the housing 20 – the front and rear walls and a

bottom forming the chassis 12 and a cover 26. However the cover of Rodriquez, being removable, is not really part of "a frame" and so does not have "a compartment" or enclosure, but rather provides an open framework of the front and back walls and bottom. Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify that the "compartment" is an enclosure in that it has "a top, a bottom and two side walls." Also the Examiner equates the strut of Rodriquez to the central rib of Applicants, which as now recited for clarity in claim 4 "forms a wall that divides the central compartment into two equal compartments" so that the sleeve can fit into either one. The strut of Rodriquez does not divide the "central compartment" into two equal compartments and does not form a wall. Next the Examiner equates an unmarked apparent disk drive enclosure "a" to Applicants' recited sleeve adapted to receive an instrument, although with respect to claim 4 it is readily apparent that such a "sleeve" of Rodriquez does not fit "within either compartment", but rather is designed to fit in only one location on the chassis. Finally the Examiner states that apparent items "b" and "c" form means for detachably securing the enclosure "a" "within the frame", whereas it is not clear what elements "b" and "c" actually are nor is it clear that once the "sleeve" is mounted by those means that it is detachable, and the enclosure "a" is not "within the frame" but rather is "on a chassis." Due to the above-noted differences amended claims 1 and 4 are deemed to be allowable as being neither anticipated nor rendered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art by Rodriquez.

The Examiner states that Noda discloses a disk drive assembly 22 having a boxlike enclosure 34, with the enclosure being equivalent to Applicants' sleeve. Also the Examiner considers the pawl 94 of Noda to be equivalent to the button as claimed by Applicants. Further the Examiner states that the claims do not address

“depressing the button from the interior of the sleeve.” Finally the Examiner states that to make integral parts separable is an obvious matter of design choice for one having ordinary skill in the art. Apparently the Examiner is equating the work processor housing 24 to an instrument rack to which a disk drive 22 is to be attached. But in that case there is no frame in Noda – the work processor housing cannot both be the rack and the frame “suitable for mounting on an instrument rack.” There is a compartment 32 within the work processor housing for receiving the disk drive, but the disk drive of Noda is equivalent at best to the recited instrument – it cannot be equated to the sleeve recited by Applicants despite the Examiner’s attempt to do so as the slot 40 in the disk drive does not receive an instrument, but rather a disk 42. To clarify that Applicants are claiming a rack-mounted system as opposed to self-contained systems as in Rodriquez and Noda, as indicated above Applicants have amended claim 1 for clarity to recite that the frame is “suitable for mounting on an instrument rack”, which Applicants submit was implicit already. Applicants also have amended claim 2 to indicate that the buttons are accessible for depression from the interior of the sleeve for readily removing the sleeve from the central compartment, which is not taught or suggested by Noda. Thus claims 1 and 2 are deemed to be allowable as being neither anticipated nor rendered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art by Noda.

With respect to the obviousness rejections, since Rodriquez does not have true compartments or enclosures, only a bottom of the chassis, there is no way that the mechanism of Noda can be combined with Rodriquez to produce the invention as claimed by Applicants. Just placing the mechanism of Noda in the bottom of the chassis of Rodriquez in lieu of elements “b” and “c” would not secure the “sleeve” to

the chassis without the cover. Also since Applicants do not claim or teach a "fake bottom", Applicants fail to see how Ryan is applicable. Thus, since claims 2, 5 and 6 depend from claims deemed to be allowable, these claims also are deemed to be allowable as being nonobvious to one of ordinary skill in the art over Rodriguez in view of Noda and Ryan.

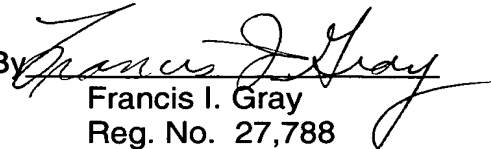
Claim 3 also is deemed to be nonobvious to one of ordinary skill in the art over Rodriguez in view of Russo since it depends from a claim deemed to be allowable.

For clarity Applicants have amended claim 5 to recite "inner spring" mounted on the rib to differentiate it from the "outer spring" mounted on the frame. Also Applicants have further clarified claim 7 to differentiate the hole in the rib from those in the frame, to provide consistent language with claim 5, and to indicate that depression of the buttons is for removing the sleeves from the compartments. Claim 7 is deemed to be allowable in its present form as depending from claims deemed to be allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks allowance of claims 1-7 is urged, and such action and the issuance of this case are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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